- Segregation, collection, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of biomedical waste.
- Handling and disposal of sharps, especially auto-disable (AD) syringes.
- Infection control and personal safety measures.
- Mercury waste disposal
- Monitoring, evaluation, awareness, behavioural change and training to improve skills in bio-medical waste management.

Vacant posts of doctors in rural Bihar

1296. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacant posts of doctors and medical staff in remote villages and inaccessible areas of Bihar; and

(b) whether it is being proposed to appoint doctors on contract basis or utilize unregistered doctors in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per the Rural Health Statistics (RHS) Bulletin (March 2008), 513 positions of doctors. 176 positions of specialists, 237 positions of nurses, 548 positions of lab technicians and 550 positions of pharmacists are vacant in the State of Bihar. To compensate these gaps the state has undertaken contractual recruitment of health service providers under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

Introduction of pneumonia vaccine

1297. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the child health bodies urged Government to include pneumonia vaccine in the routine immunization schedule since the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that one child died in India a minute due to pneumonia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the WHO Data published recently reveals that India leads the World with 27 per cent of the global pneumonia cases;

(d) whether Government introduced a pentavalent vaccine which includes Haemophilus influenza (Hib) one of the two bacteria causing pneumonia; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to include Pneumococcal Conjagate Vaccine (PCV) which immunize children against pneumonia?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. The Indian Association of Pediatrics: Committee on Immunization (IAP COI) has recommended for inclusion of Pheumococcal vaccines in the routine immunization schedule, considering the high mortality caused by this disease in children in the country.